May 19, 2010

MOTHER/DAUGHTER, FATHER/SON AMONG GRADUATES OF NEW RIVER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

When Amanda Kazner had completed her home schooling after 12 years, she enrolled at New River Community and Technical College’s Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg to see how she would like formal classroom studies.
That was in the fall of 2007 and, not only did she like it, she encouraged her mother to try college through New River’s Prep 4 College Success program which offers free introductory college classes to qualifying adults students who have never tried college before. Her mother, Tammy Kazner, joined Amanda as a student, with Amanda majoring in General Education and her mother in Medical Assisting.

On Sunday, May 16, both graduated with honors during commencement exercises for New River at the Beckley/Raleigh County Convention Center, earning Associate of Science degrees in their respective fields of study.

Amanda had been on the Dean's List (recognizing a 3.25 or higher grade point average) four semesters and one semester on the President’s List (representing a 4.0 grade point average), while her mother, a graduate of Sandalwood High School in Jacksonville, Fla., was on the President’s List all four semesters. Both were inducted recently into Phi Theta Kappa, the national honorary for two year colleges.

With graduation, Amanda is looking forward to finding an affordable program of study in dance, acting, or theater, while Tammy Kazner is in search of employment, hoping to eventually obtain a Licensed Practical Nursing certification studying on a part-time basis.

Meanwhile, in Beckley, Jack D. Lilly Jr. had already received an associate degree in Radiology from Mountain State University when he started taking computer science classes part time on New River’s Beckley Campus. His son, Jack D. Lilly III, was graduating from Independence High School in Coal City.

In discussing future college plans for Jack III, the father/son team decided that New River Community and Technical College was the best, most affordable option and that computer science was a good field in which to study.

The father and son each received an Associate in Science Computer Science degree from New River, and both are planning to continue to work towards a four-year degree on a part-time basis.
“I need to find a job and save some money,” Jack D. Lilly III divulged after the graduation ceremony, “but I do want to go for a four-year degree.” His father said he would continue working as a radiologist at Appalachian Regional Hospital in Beckley but aims to get a four-year degree, working on at that goal on a part-time basis.

Jack D. Lilly Jr. graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Beckley in 1980. The Lillys and the Kazners were joined by nearly 200 other residents of southeastern and south central West Virginia and residents of nearby Virginia in making up New River’s Class of 2010.

For information on the programs of study and courses offered at any of the five New River campuses in the Greenbrier Valley, Mercer County, Nicholas County and Raleigh County areas, visit www.newriver.edu.

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